

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: PLATAJUNTA AND PCE LEADER CRITICIZE ASSOCIATION LAW

REF: MADRID 4967

1. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OPPOSITION "COORDINACION DEMIRATICA," THE SO CALLED PLATAJUNTA, ON JUNE 25 "CATEGORICALLY DENOUNCE" THE RECENTLY APPROVED LAW ON POLITICAL ASSOCIATION AS "PART OF THE GOVT'S REFORMIST POLICY, WHOSE INTENT IT IS TO STEAL THE PEOPLE'S SOVEREIGNTY, IMPEDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUE DEMOCRACY, AND DIVIDE THE OPPOSITION." THE COMMUNIQUE FROM WHICH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT (MC)--A MAOIST MEMBER OF THE PLATAJUNTA--DISASSOCIATED ITSELF, SPECIFICALLY ATTACKED THOSE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW WHICH LIMIT THE ACTIVITY OF THE PARTIES AND THEIR ABILITY TO WORK FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE "CURRENT CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER," AND WHICH GIVE THE INTERIOR MINISTER THE POWER TO "MEDDLE PERMANENTLY IN THE PARTIES' INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

2. THE STATEMENT CONCLUDED WITH A CALL FOR "RUPTURA" NEGOTIATED WITH THOSE IN POWER WHO "SHARE OUR ASPIRATIONS TO INSTITUTE AN AUTHENTIC DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN A PEACEFUL MANNER." AND REJECTED THE CURRENT GOVT AS
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HAVING DEMONSTRATED ITS INABILITY TO INITIATE SUCH A DIA-

LOGUE.

3. MEANWHILE, MADRID DAILY YA ON JUNE 26 REPORTED THAT PCE LEADER MANUEL AZCARATE, IN A MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS THE PREVIOUS DAY, CHARACTERIZED THE AS-SOCIATION LAW AS A "REAL DANGER," BECAUSE IT COULD DIVIDE THE OPPOSITION. HE WENT ON TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PSOE WOULD AGREE TO PARTICIPATE UNDER THE LAW.

4. AZCARATE ASSERTED THAT THE PCE FULLY INTENDS TO FUNCTION PUBLICLY, "JUST LIKE THE OTHER PARTIES," AND THAT IT WOULD NOT AGREE "TO ANY TEMPORARY EXCLUSION, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST." HE ADDED THAT, IF THE GOVT PERSISTS IN REFUSING TO LEGALIZE THE PCE, THE PARTY MIGHT RECONSIDER ITS CURRENT POLICY AND "MOVE ON TO ONE OF MOBILIZING THE MASSES."

5. COMMENT: ALL LEFT OPPOSITION GROUPS ARE SENSITIZED TO THE GOVT'S ABILITY TO ATTENUATE THEIR POLITICAL CLOUT BY PLAYING THEM OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER, AND ALL OF THE MAJOR GROUPS GIVE AT LEAST LIP SERVICE TO OPPOSITION UNITY. AZCARATE'S STATEMENT, HOWEVER, DEMONSTRATES HOW MUCH MORE CONCERNED THE COMMUNISTS ARE ABOUT IT, AND HOW IMPORTANT A ROLE "OPPOSITION UNITY" PLAYS IN THE PCE'S STRATEGY. THE PLATAJUNTA'S COMMUNIQUE, WHICH COMES AFTER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF RELATIVE INACTIVITY ON THE COALITION'S PART, MAY BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE RECENT RELEASE FROM PRISON OF OPPOSITION STALWART ANTONIO GARCIA TREVIJANO, WHO IS CERTAIN TO BE WORKING TO RETURN THE PLATAJUNTA TO THE FRONT PAGE. AS WE INDICATED IN REFTEL, HOWEVER, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PLATAJUNTA TO THE MAJOR NON-COMMUNIST GROUPS APPEARS TO BE DIMINISHING AS THE LATTER'S OVERT ACTIVITIES PICK UP STEAM.

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